

Kevin Smith
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Alexandria, VA 22310

Virginia Air Board
c/o Terry Darton
Air Permit Manager
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge, VA 22193

Dear Air Board-

I am against anyone wanting to shut down operation of the Potomac Generating Station. The power plant has been in operation for many years, supplying electricity for more than 14 states, including parts of Virginia. Mirant bought this power plant in 2001 and have worked hard to make sure that the plant meets all environmental standards. They have spent millions of dollars doing this, and they have only recently discovered that their stacks could pose a health hazard.

The stacks only reach 165 feet high. This is much lower than modern plant standards. The stacks cannot be raised, because of the nearby airport. So, they have proposed a stack merge. The stack merge would actually shoot emissions high into the air. This proposed project would ensure that the plant stays environmentally sound and ensure the community that the air quality remains safe. The project has been approved by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, but Mirant has not been granted the permit needed to proceed with the project.

Word has been spread that the City Council wants the plant shut down. I have lived in Alexandria for 15 years. We need to keep adequate power flowing through that electrical grid, while improving our air quality. I am a government worker, and I drive by the plant every day. It would be sad thing to see such an important fixture of our community shut down. Our area and the Mid-Atlantic area could be faced with blackouts if plants continue to be taken offline. I, for one, do not want to see this happen. This plant has been vitally important to our community for many years. Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns on this issue. I urge you to help save our power plant.

Sincerely,


Kevin Smith

1/23/08